



WELCOME ABOARD

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General information about Loran Station Port Clarence, AK

Above all, please contact your sponsor or the XPO as soon as possible to verify that the following information is up to date and to address any unlisted concerns!

1. First off, congratulations and welcome aboard! We are confident that a tour at LORAN Station Port Clarence will be recounted as one of your most rewarding and enjoyable tours in the Coast Guard. At first glance, a remote, isolated unit on the outskirts of Nothing might not seem like a great place to spend a holiday or more than a handful of weekends, but... here you will find a special brand of camaraderie, esprit de corps, and élan while working in a near-exclusive operational field in some of the most spectacular scenery in the world.
2. USCG LORAN Station Port Clarence was originally built in 1961 and underwent a major renovation in 1987. It is located approximately 80 miles northwest of Nome, 75 miles south of the Arctic Circle and 85 miles east of Siberia. About 12 miles due east of the station, across Port Clarence Bay, are two Inupiat villages, Teller and Brevig Mission.
3. The weather here is very unpredictable. In the winter (Oct-May), temperatures vary from a +30 to -40 degrees. Daily wind speeds can average 25 to 30 knots, with frequent blizzards when winds can exceed 75 knots. The wind chill factor ranges from -40 to -100 degrees. No kidding. You will be trained in cold weather procedures when you arrive and outfitted from the skin out with foul weather clothing. If reporting during the winter months, you must dress warmly due to the temperature and the wind chill factor, more detail of which is provided below.

4. The station complement consists of a Chief Warrant Officer (ELC), Chief Electronics Technician, Chief Machinery Technician, and 20 other enlisted personnel of the following rates:
 - a. One Boatswain's Mate (BM2)
 - b. One Damage Controlman (DC1)
 - c. One Electrician's Mate (EM1)
 - d. Four Electronics Technicians (ET1, ET2, ET3, ET3)
 - e. Two Firemen (FN/FA)
 - f. Two Food Service Specialists (FS1, FS3)
 - g. One Health Services Technician (HS1) (also does Yeoman duties)
 - h. Four Machinery Technicians (MK1, MK2, MK3, MK3)
 - i. Three Seamen (SN/SA)
 - j. One Storekeeper (SK2)

Requirements for Reporting Personnel

5. Follow the Overseas Duty requirements of Chapter 4.H of the Personnel Manual very closely, including the Command Checklist for Overseas Screening, Financial Assessment Checklist and satisfying the requirements of the Overseas Entry Approval process! Failure to meet any of the above requirements can result in denial of Overseas entry and consequently loss of PCS orders.
6. Ensure that your shot records and dental and medical checkups are more than simply "up to date". Exams need to be less than a year old to be considered in compliance at that time, but if it's been 11 months since your last dental exam, for example, despite the fact that you would be transferring while in compliance, by the time you complete your tour, you will be overdue by 11 months. Even though this is a unique environment in that there is no nearby servicing dental or medical facility, falling out of compliance with your dental and medical records, according to regulation, can make you ineligible for transfer, advancement, or ascension to the officer corps or other programs. We do not have a statutory exemption from these requirements. It is vitally important to make every effort to ensure you are as "up to date" as possible, not just "in compliance". Medical and dental services are

available through ISC Kodiak, but given accessibility, station manpower requirements and logistics, they should not be relied upon as a “readily available” means of staying in compliance.

7. Reporting personnel should have a full sea bag as required by Coast Guard regulations. The uniform of the day for all personnel is ODU's, except for cooks, who wear galley smocks and trousers. Unit t-shirts and hooded sweatshirts are available for sale through the Morale locker and may be worn at any time, as may the fleece outer shirt that will be issued to you. Extra work uniforms, underwear and socks are highly recommended. Uniform Distribution Center's Phone number is 1-800-874-6841. Shower shoes are mandatory. Arctic clothing will be issued to you when you arrive (see the “What to Bring” page for more information). Other clothing may be purchased through the exchange or from small stores at ISC Kodiak, but this may take a few weeks to arrive. Appropriate civilian clothes are authorized during off duty hours.
8. The Coast Guard uniform is NOT authorized for commercial travel in the winter months and layered, heavy winter clothes are recommended for the small aircraft transit from Nome to Port Clarence. During the summer there is quite a bit of morning fog and late-season rain and the temperature varies from high 40's to high 60's. From the Beginning of June until the end of August the sun never actually sets and it is light outside for 24 hours a day. The amount of light during the day decreases rapidly, (about 12 min a day) dwindling down to only a few hours of light in the middle of the winter.
9. Try to have all of your personal affairs squared away before you depart your station. Ensure your DEERS enrollment is current for yourself and all family members and... won't expire when you're up here! It is recommended that you make a Will and execute any necessary Powers of Attorney prior to departure. Your District Legal office can assist you with these items. Make sure that your military I.D. Card does not expire before your tour ends here, as you will be unable to obtain one locally and they will be required should you have to fly to Elmendorf AFB or another military facility. See your Administration Department before you PCS.
10. If you have dependents and are receiving BAH, you may wish to contact your PERSRU before you depart to confirm your BAH entitlement rate. While you are stationed at Port Clarence, BAH will be calculated based

upon the Zip Code where your dependants will be living. If your PERSRU has any questions, please have them contact LorSta Port Clarence XPO/Admin or the PERSRU at ISC Kodiak

11. Ensure you're entitlements are correct. Many members incorrectly receive Dislocation Allowance, for example, as they are transferring to government quarters and their dependents are NOT relocating. Remember, DLA is for relocating a household, whether it is you or your dependents that is moving. The 1000lbs of Unaccompanied Baggage that you are authorized to ship does not constitute a HHG move nor otherwise imply that you are eligible for reimbursement for the relocation of a "household", as you are going into quarters.
12. If you are coming from an overseas duty station (i.e. Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, etc.) you are entitled to Consecutive Overseas Tour (COT) Travel. You can take your COT in-Transit to the station or defer it up to one (1) year. Deferment must be on your PCS orders. Since this is an unaccompanied tour your family is not entitled to a COT, even if they are remaining "overseas". Contact your unit PERSRU for assistance on COT Travel.
13. It is absolutely necessary to have a checking account, since all money transactions within the unit (Exchange and Morale bills, etc.) are made by check. We do not have the capability to handle ATM, Debit, or Credit cards. The only opportunities for members to deal in cash will be in transit (such as when awaiting flights in Nome) and when purchasing items from the local native craftsmen.
14. Personal telephone calls from the station have to be either collect (unadvised due to insidious costs) or with a calling card. Calling cards are available for purchase through our satellite Coast Guard Exchange, but we encourage everyone to research on their own to find the best deal for them, as many are available.

Pre-Arrival Training and Certifications

15. ET's are required to have pipeline LORAN training in timing and control and the AN/FPN-44B transmitters. Orders to school must be coordinated with TQC Chesapeake VA. Contact them at (804) 366-6587.

16. DC's, EM's , FS's, HS's, MK's, and SK's also need pre-arrival training. Contact your sponsor or the XPO on the type of training required and scheduling procedures.
17. The Commanding Officer, HS, BM and all ET's are required to have current security clearances throughout their tour. If you do NOT have a current security clearance, or have one that will expire during your tour, contact your Command Security Officer as soon as possible to initiate the appropriate actions.

Shipping your "Unaccompanied Baggage"

18. You may request a 1000lb "restricted" Unaccompanied Baggage shipment in your entry approval request. Items normally authorized for shipment to LORAN Station Port Clarence include clothing, personal effects, hobby materials, TV's, VCR's, DVD players, small stereos, cameras, Personal Computer, etc. You no longer have to bring a TV or Stereo for all the rooms now have a 20" TV and 5 CD Stereo System in them. Personal ATV's or Dirt Bikes are prohibited. Contact the station or your sponsor for information on shipping specific items not described above. It is highly recommended to bring whatever items that will make your stay here more comfortable. Please visit the "What to Bring" page for some helpful hints.
19. You are encouraged to bring "inside hobbies" such as models, musical instruments, games, reading materials, etc., due to the severity of the winter weather. That being said, you'll find that when the sun is bright and the winds are low, regardless of the temperature or time of day, many folks are willing to put on the appropriate outer garments and venture out if nothing else to simply get some fresh air. There are not many places that you'll folks who will "go outside for a walk" in -10 degree weather. But this is dependent on personal preference and is at the mercy of the environment. A normally slight amount of wind in the winter can produce deadly outside temperatures and the weather is not to be taken for granted. It changes frequently and can result in weeks of staying indoors.
20. If you bring a personal firearm, compliance with Federal Firearms Regulations is required. Your firearm and all ammunition will be kept in

the station armory under lock and key when not in use. The unit has a Federal Firearms License (FFL) and may receive firearms through the mail, including those purchased. Small game, duck and geese hunting are available. Keep in mind that Alaska State Fish and Game laws apply. Alaska Department of Fish and game web page is at:

<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/adfghome.htm>

21. Ensure that the carrier who is packing you out labels your shipment with the following address ONLY. The Duty Location on PCS orders to Port Clarence indicate Nome, AK, but that is only where our mail is flown to and is NOT to be used! If they address your shipment to that address, your Unaccompanied Baggage will be inevitably sent to Elmendorf AFB, which will result in extreme difficulty and unnecessary delay. Unaccompanied Baggage shipments are actually transferred to the unit via a C-130 logistics flight from ISC Kodiak. There is a Coast Guard amendment to the JFTR that applies to this unit and your shipment needs to be addressed as such:

COMMANDING OFFICER
USCG ISC KODIAK
PO BOX 195016
KODIAK, AK. 99619-5023
ATTN: LORSTA PORT CLARENCE

If you have any difficulties with your shipment, call the unit immediately!

What's Available On-Station

22. For any medical problems that may arise, we have a Health Services Technician aboard and a well-stocked sickbay. If you have any special medication needs, please contact the HS prior to arrival. Urgent examinations and more extensive treatment are handled at USCG Support Center Kodiak or Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage. Port Clarence does not have the capability to provide follow-up care for pre-existing injuries or medical problems. Contact the HS prior to arrival if you have questions
23. We operate a small satellite Coast Guard Exchange that is typically stocked with standard items (snacks, uniform items, toiletry articles,

etc.) Operating through the Exchange at ISC Kodiak, we can obtain just about anything normally for sale in the Exchange system and that can be transferred via CG C-130 aircraft. If you have a preference, it is suggested that you bring any special toiletry items (i.e.; shampoo, soap, shaving cream, etc.) in a 3-month supply until you can verify their availability through Kodiak. The exchange is restocked every three weeks via a USCG logistics flight from Air Station Kodiak. Purchased items are placed on credit and exchange bills are paid at the end of each month by personal check.

24. The station has been fortunate in having a voluntary Religious Lay Reader onboard and we have weekly Bible Study groups that are open to all faiths and denominations. Catholic and Protestant Chaplains travel between Nome and outlying villages and infrequently stop at Port Clarence. The Chaplain at ISC Kodiak and/or D17 (Juneau) tries, with varying levels of success, to visit the station once each fiscal quarter.
25. Water for the station is either drawn from the lakes during the summer or extracted from the bay and stored in large indoor and heated outdoor tanks for use in the winter. Washing machines are provided for the crew. Each person does his own laundry, including bedding. Laundry soap is provided by the unit. Irons and ironing boards and sewing machines are provided for crew use.
26. Coast Guard Logistics services are provided every three weeks by means of HC-130 aircraft from CGAS Kodiak. During the summer after the ice leaves the bay, fuel and bulk supplies too large to be flown via HC-130 aircraft arrive by barge. Each barge (fuel and large cargo) makes only one trip per year. We send and receive US Mail deliveries via local commuter aircraft approximately 3 days a week. FedEx, UPS, and DHL are not recommended for shipping of personal items as they are delivered by non-contract carriers who are unable to adequately provide tracking information and charge additional handling fees.

Morale and Recreation

27. There is a surprising amount of recreational equipment available here on the station. Some of the items on hand include ice skates, cross country skis, pool table, ping-pong, library, stereo systems, a large weight room, firearms, archery equipment, a sauna, a heated indoor

swimming pool, home theatre equipment and satellite TV, piles of board games, and two morale computers with internet access.

28. If you like fishing, it is recommended you bring a light/medium-spinning rod for the silver salmon run and flounder fishing. There is, however, plenty of fishing gear available in the morale locker. There is no fresh water fishing in this area. Ice-fishing here should be an Olympic event, as there is 4+ ft of ice to get through before you reach the bay, and although the young folks from the local villages seem to have no problem, as we've seen several enviable piles of fish freezing on the ice next to a kid with a hand-line, the station crew, to date, has had negligible success... but, we try anyway!
29. Another note of interest is that Eskimos periodically visit the station from whom you can purchase ivory carvings, slippers, boots, and other types of native artwork at a reasonable price.
30. The Coast Guard requires that all members take an all-terrain vehicle safety course before driving the station ATV's. We strongly encourage you to take the course before arriving at Port Clarence as you may be unable to acquire the course once you are here, and if you are not qualified, you will not be allowed to operate the unit ATV's. Ops permitting, we can sometimes arrange onsite training from a licensed instructor from ISC Kodiak or from another member of the station's crew if they have completed the course of instruction and have a valid, unexpired certificate. It is important to note that this is wholly dependent on the availability of qualified personnel and at the discretion of the Commanding Officer. You may contact the ATV Safety Institute (www.atvsafety.org) to find out where a course near you will be given. The number is 800-887-2887.

Administrative Miscellaney

31. Earned leave is accrued at the rate of 2.5 days per month. All incoming personnel are reminded that the maximum amount of leave that may be carried over per fiscal year is 60 days. Please ensure that any excess leave is used prior to reporting aboard. If there are any questions, read Chapter 7 of the PERSMAN, COMDTINST M1000.6A

32. You will earn Compensatory Absence (CA) in addition to your regular leave at the rate of 2.5 days per month. CA is a form of liberty and is not included in official statements as leave. CA may be taken at mid-tour or at expiration of the tour. As a reminder, CA can only be taken as it accrues... you can not go "in the hole" with CA, as it is compensation for being on-station. Between the fourth and tenth month, personnel may request "mid-tour" leave. We recommend that you use all compensatory leave earned up to that point as there is no guarantee on how much leave you will be able to take in transit to your next unit, if any.
33. The station can be contacted at the following telephone number: (907) 642-3844, fax 642-3221. Your new mailing address will be:

Your Name
USCG LORSTA Port Clarence
PO Box KPC, 1 Airport Rd
Nome, AK 99762-8998
34. You are urged to contact your sponsor or the XPO at (907) 642-3844 with any questions you might have concerning your transfer. We are very confident that you will have a surprisingly good time up here and look forward to meeting you!

Traveling to Loran Station Port Clarence

Ref: (a) Personnel Reporting Instructions, COMDTINST M1320.5
(b) ALCOAST 513/05 OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT ADVISORY: PAYMENT FOR PCS FERRY AND AIRLINE TICKETS
(c) ALCOAST 530/05 TRAVEL USING THE CENTRAL BILLED ACCOUNT (GTA ACCOUNT)

1. Personnel traveling to Port Clarence may experience some unusual travel problems. These problems stem from changes in air carriers, severe weather conditions, and scarcity of lodging in Nome or

insufficient funds to offset high prices in Alaska, so be prepared to exhibit some flexibility and patience!

2. Please keep a log of your travel expenses and all receipts. It will assist you when submitting your travel claim. To ensure your travel claim is submitted correctly the first time and to ensure a timely reimbursement, remember to save all lodging receipts (even those under \$75.00) including excess baggage receipts and plane tickets. Don't forget to get a receipt of the plane ticket from Nome to Port Clarence!

Air Travel

Per Ref b, airline tickets for overseas travel may ONLY be purchased with a GTA and through a TMC!!

1. Travel to Nome is conveniently arranged via Alaska Airlines. Alaska Airlines serves most West Coast and Alaskan cities. You can generally make the trip from Seattle in two days, depending on the time of year you arrive. Presently, both Hageland Aviation and Bering Air fly to Port Clarence from Nome. If your final leg of travel is to be made by Open Carrier GTR, you should call both airlines upon arrival to Nome to determine the next flight to Port Clarence.

Numbers for the airlines in Nome are:

- a. Alaska Airlines (800) 426-0333
 - b. Hageland Air (888) 547-7595 (Preferred method of travel to Port Clarence from Nome as they charge half as much as Bering Air and are more likely to be able to accommodate a flight on any given weekday.)
 - c. Bering Air (888) 590-5042
2. TMC agents (e.g. SATO) may be unable to find “published” flight information for the small carriers that travel from Nome to Port Clarence, Bering Air and Hageland Aviation, and neither have scheduled flights on the weekends. However, BOTH can sometimes accommodate weekend travel. If your travel agent is unsuccessful at first, you may need to offer their telephone numbers and/or call both airlines yourself and then inform the travel agent of what is available. Do NOT make travel reservations on your government travel card, as per ref (b)!!

3. If you arrive at Nome in the morning (before 11:30) you may be able to connect to a Hageland Aviation or Bering Air flight that same day, as they typically fly between 1130am to 3pm. Neither airline has more than one flight to the station in a single day, and they do not fly all days, so be sure that your reservations are well planned and made well in advance.
4. If you arrive at Nome in the evening (there is an Alaskan Airlines flight that touches down around 8pm) you will have to overnight in Nome. Overnight accommodations are discussed below. The positive side of this is that you can get a full nights sleep, do a little sight-seeing and perhaps last minute shopping in Nome (which is an experience in itself) and get a full breakfast before making your connecting flight to the station, which will probably leave around noon the next day.
5. Airline schedules and service to this area may change at any time. If you cannot fly to Port Clarence on a scheduled flight, DO NOT charter a flight. The price is overwhelming and will not be authorized on your travel claim.
6. Ensure your orders authorize 100 pounds of excess luggage! You may be charged at the gate, but you can itemize it on your travel claim for reimbursement.
7. You may have a single ticket for travel through to Port Clarence, however, if you have a separate GTR for travel between Nome and Port Clarence, it should be made out as follows:

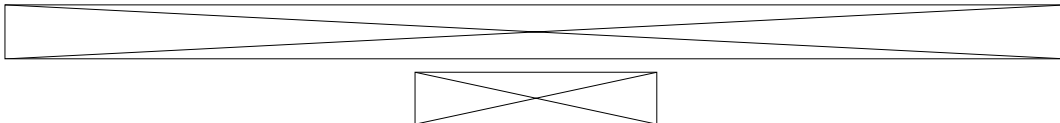
Carrier or Agent Tendered to: OPEN CARRIER
Carrier and Class of Service: COACH
Excess Baggage Authorized : 100 lbs.

Overnight Accommodations in Nome

1. For the most recent rates and news, visit their official site:
<http://www.nomealaska.org>
2. You should have sufficient funds to cover a stay of several days in Nome. At least \$300.00 is recommended due to the high cost of

services. Traveler's checks are recommended. Many businesses in Nome do not accept personal checks that do not have an Alaskan address.

3. Taxi's, which are generally small to full-size vans, are always available and operate well into the night, regardless of the time of year. Fare's are typically \$5 from any one place to another within the city. Inevitably, there will be taxi's waiting outside the Alaska Airlines terminal and most local establishments have the numbers posted right next to a phone or radio that's available for public use. Be advised that there is no ATM within comfortable walking distance of the airport!
4. Travel During March: Hotel rooms become extra scarce and even more costly if they coincide with the Iditarod sled dog races that typically happen in mid-March. If you are scheduled to arrive at this time, you are strongly encouraged to make your reservations as soon as possible.
5. Lodging is usually available at the Aurora House, a bed & breakfast (907) 443-2700, approx. \$55.00, or the Nome Nugget Inn (907) 443-2323, approx. \$75.00. See the website above for additional information.
6. One other lodging source is the Nome Weather Service. They have an apartment that they lend out on a space available basis. They can be contacted at (907) 443-2321; ask for Jerry. These rooms are on a first-come, first-serve basis and long term planning may be difficult and impossible to guarantee. During the Iditarod (most of March), it is safe to assume that these rooms will be full. If you cannot find a place to stay, call the XPO. In the event of an emergency (i.e., lost wallet) you may call collect.
8. On arrival in Nome, contact the station at (907) 642-3844. Call if you are delayed for any reason. Charges for official calls will be reimbursed when submitted on your travel claim.



Coast Guard disclaimer